

B BAKER SCHOLARS

THE GEORGE F. BAKER SCHOLARS PROGRAM
G E O R G E T O W N C O L L E G E

Baker Scholar Newsletter

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In this Issue:
Summer Updates
Trustee Spotlight
Baker Consulting Group

Baker Scholar at the Top of the Class

By: Caitlin McDevitt (C '08)



Greg Pope (C '07) meeting up with fellows Bakers Bob Scully (C '08), Camy Thees (C '08), and Tommaso Trento (C '07) in Manhattan this summer.

Greg Pope, former Baker Co-Chair and member of the Class of 2007, earned the distinction of Georgetown College valedictorian at commencement this past May. Greg spent the summer working at DonorsChoose.org. Greg heard about this innovative online non-profit through a visit during last year's New York trip. Donorschoose allows school teachers to make specific requests for classroom materials on their website, which can then in turn be answered by a specific donor who takes an interest in their cause. Greg came back to campus in September to catch up with the Bakers and discuss the possibilities of the scholars coordinating with the non-profit this upcoming year.

Presently, Greg is studying environmental economics on a Marshall Scholarship in England. "Ultimately, I want to serve as a pioneer for a new economy, one that exists within the greater ecosystem, not outside of it," Greg wrote in his personal statement for the Marshall committee. "I am ever hopeful that my generation of businesspeople, government officials, scientists and environmentalists will find economically viable solutions to our ecological problems."

Upcoming Baker Events

Fall Trip to Chicago: October 17-19

New York Trip: January 2-4 - Alumni Reception January 3rd @ The University Club

Royden B. Davis Weekend 2008: April 18-20 (More information to come!)

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Making Headlines and a Difference

By: James Grant (C '09)



Yamiche Alcindor (C '09)

Recent Baker inductee Yamiche Alcindor has spent this summer as a journalist for the Miami Herald creating story ideas and writing articles. Owing to her fluency in Creole, she focused on a variety of issues affecting Miami's Haitian community, from crime to immigration. Some of her work was laudable enough to make the front page of the estimable Florida newspaper. However, she insists that she "wasn't just happy to make the front page, [she] was happy to really connect people across geographical and socioeconomic lines." Moreover, Yamiche feels that the skills she acquired while working for the Herald will translate to other business fields, particularly because she had to focus on being detail-oriented and punctual in the face of a deadline.

Baker Scholar in Uganda

By: James Grant (C '09)

This summer, Baker senior Caitlin McDevitt worked for the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative, a global, non-profit public-private partnership with the mission to accelerate the development of a safe, effective, and accessible HIV vaccine. She worked in the Finance department at the New York headquarters, assisting IAVI to fund vaccine research and development around the world with substantial donated funds from governments, corporations, foundations, and individuals. During her time with the organization, Caitlin dealt mostly with budgeting, grants and contracts, and research units. Furthermore, in addition to learning finance fundamentals, she was able to learn a great deal about the non-profit world, international organizations, and HIV/AIDS as a public health issue. Caitlin's time with IAVI culminated in the NPO's 3rd Annual Finance Conference in Uganda. While in Africa, she met IAVI coworkers from around the world who had gathered to discuss and improve financial policies; additionally, she worked at Jajja's Home, a day-care center for HIV positive AIDS orphans in Kampala. She comments, "This opportunity, both heartbreaking and inspiring, just reinforced the importance and urgency of the work I had done all summer," adding that her internship would not have been possible without the Bakers. Dean Jane McAuliffe suggested to Linn Dorin, the CFO of IAVI that she consider a Baker Scholar as an intern. After this connection, Dr. Cook worked with Linn to shape the internship, to create a process for application, and to select Caitlin. Her time at IAVI offered a perfect coupling of business and service that could not have been more in line with Baker ideals.



Caitlin McDevitt (C '08) working at the Mildmay Clinic in Kampala, Uganda with the International AIDS Vaccine Initiative.

Trustee Spotlight

By: Eden Schiffmann (C '08)

This year the Baker Scholars are pleased to welcome a new trustee to its board, Nancy E. Winkler (C '80), a Managing Director with the PFM Group who is responsible for overseeing the firm's New York practice. Ms. Winkler made partner in 1990 and was one of the original 16 partners who bought the firm from Marine Midland Bank in 1994. Currently her responsibilities include leading PFM's New York office, marketing, client management, structuring and pricing new debt issuances, and rating agency relations.

In addition to working with many state and local agencies, Ms. Winkler has led the firm's engagement as financial advisor to Nassau County, New York. During the course of this work, she has served as financial advisor on over \$4.5 billion of issuance on behalf of the County or one of its related agencies. In addition to her role as a Baker Trustee, Ms. Winkler is a Trustee of the Citizens Budget Commission serving on its Executive Committee, a member of the Maryland and New York State Government Finance Officers' Associations, and worked in Maryland politics prior to joining PFM.

Baker Consulting Group in Action

By: Rob Summers (C '08)

The Baker Consulting Group (BCG) is a new initiative the Bakers pioneered in 2006. Inspired to support the recovery in New Orleans post-Katrina, we pooled our resources and time to "consult" to New Orleans-based groups serving children. Eight scholars formed BCG and produced a 20-page best-practices document to aid a major New Orleans grant making foundation in strategic planning for a charter school built in Spring 2007. The Scholars traveled to New Orleans to present the document, conduct on-site interviews, and meet with experts in the field with first-hand experience in the New Orleans education system.

Our Deliverable

Baker Consultants gained valuable experience producing a best-practices document on building a successful charter school. Scholars developed skills communicating with one another, as well as with our client. We built research and writing skills and built relationships with experts in the field to get professional opinions of our subject matter. The critical thinking about what makes a Charter School successful was challenging. The team was forced to problem-solve and analyze deeper significance of surface data points. For example, not all the information available on charter schools provided valuable insight about general best practices, provoking scholars to ask questions including what it means to have a good education.

BCG Leaders and Supporters

Baker Consulting Group happened because Greg Pope (C '07) and Pam Papapetrou (C '07) are brilliant social entrepreneurs. They had an idea, figured out a way to accomplish it, and saw it through. They sought out the help and guidance of trustees Beth Bartholomew (C '79) and Joel Stickney (C '93) at the earliest stages. Greg and Pam were instrumental in forming connections in New Orleans as well. Major contributors to identifying our client included Baker alumna Dionne Rousseau (C '85), Kevin Laborde (B '78), Program Advisor Dr. Bernie Cook (C '90, G '91), and Fr. Kevin Wildes, President of Loyola University in New Orleans.

Trip to New Orleans

The April 12th – 15th trip to New Orleans was eye opening; it demanded action, being part of the solution. We touched down into a quiet airport in New Orleans on Thursday evening. On Friday morning, we met with the leadership of our client, Baptist Community Ministries (BCM), and toured two new charter schools in the Algiers neighborhood. There was a prevailing sense of optimism in these schools; these were the success stories of schools starting up after Katrina. This was what we wanted to capture in our document, and this was the solution that New Orleans needed—dedicated teachers, visionary principals, and students who loved learning. Next, the Baker Consulting Group attended a lunch (with some delicious gumbo) with Dr. Byron Harrell, Executive Director of BCM, Paul Pastorek, Superintendent of Education for the State of Louisiana, and members of the BCM Board of Directors to whom we presented the executive summary of the start-up document. After lunch, we toured Capdau Elementary, a charter school in the Gentilly neighborhood, run in coordination with the University of New Orleans. After the school visit, at BCM's headquarters, we met with Dr. Betty Porter, Cathy Vaughn, and Dr. Peggy Kirby, to review a draft of the document. Dr. Kirby led a detailed examination and discussion of the Scholars work, recommending additions and alterations.



Baker Scholars at Baptist Community Ministries. Back row, from left: Greg Pope (C '07) Camy Thees (C'08), Pam Papapetrou (C '07), Dr. Peggy Kirby, Xavier Ringer (C'08), Julie Johnson (C'07), Lauren Tanick (C'07). Front row, from left: Cathy Vaughan, Dr. Betty Porter.

Connecting with Local Hoyas

On Friday evening, Bakers had dinner with Baker alumna Dionne Rousseau (C '85), a partner at Jones Walker, who specializes in securities law. Dionne talked about her undergraduate experiences at Georgetown, her work in investment banking in the late 1980s, and her decision to move from banking to law. On Saturday, we attended the French Quarter Festival, an annual free outdoor music and culture festival. The Scholars were able to listen to Dixieland jazz, blues, New Orleans R&B, and brass band music and to sample local cuisine. On Saturday evening, Fr. Kevin Wildes, S. J., hosted the Scholars for dinner and discussion about New Orleans post-Katrina. The Scholars asked Fr. Wildes about his experience leading Loyola, and about partnerships between local businesses and educational institutions in the aftermath of Katrina. On Sunday, Fr. Wildes gave the Scholars a personal tour of the most devastated areas of New Orleans, including Lakeview, Bywater, and the Upper and Lower 9th Ward. After the tour, we went to the home of Kevin Laborde (B '78), a highly active Georgetown Alumnus in New Orleans, for a Georgetown accepted students reception. The Scholars met with prospective Georgetown students, their parents, and local alumni.

The impressions the trip left upon the group will not be forgotten. Our work offered an incredible opportunity to give back to the community in a truly innovative way. We look forward to building upon this initial effort through future BCG engagements.

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